

GAMEDAYGUIDE

www.kstatecollegian.com | Friday, September 30, 2011 | K-State vs. Baylor

Offensive line key to win against Baylor Bears



K-State running back **Angelo Pease** (29) rushes against Kent State during the second half at Bill Snyder Family Stadium, Sept. 17th. The Wildcats defeated the Golden Eagles 37-0. (Jonathan Knight/K-State Collegian)

Mark Kern
sports editor

After two games against not top-level talent, there were people starting to doubt K-State. "Miami's defense is too fast." "The Wildcats have not faced any team that is any good." "How will K-State score on Miami?" All the team heard going into the week against Miami was that this would be the first good team that they would face and that they would not be able to score very many points.

After Miami took the opening drive down the field for three points, it was the Wildcats' turn to have the ball and show what they could do against the Hurricane defense. The Wild-

cats would march right down the field for 63 yards on 11 plays that was capped by a two-yard Collin Klein touchdown run.

The Wildcats went on to score 28 points and beat the Hurricanes. The goal-line stand by the Wildcats defense is something that the fans will not forget, but for an offense that was doubted going into the game, Saturday could be a changing point into the season.

Going into the game, the Hurricanes defense had only given up 162.5 yards on the ground per game. However, the Wildcats ran for 265 yards, over 100 more than what the Hurricanes were giving up. The offense was able to establish a rhythm early in the game. A

key to the running game being effective was the play of quarterback Collin Klein.

Klein threw for a career-high 133 yards and two touchdowns. Those numbers don't appear that large, but it was the way he passed for those yards that matter. On the first scoring drive, Klein went 6-of-6, throwing the ball for 42 yards. That first possession success was able to force the Miami defense to respect Klein and the passing game, thus opening up all of the holes for the rushing attack to do what they did. That first drive was crucial in the game, it showed that the Wildcats would not be scared to pass the ball.

The Wildcats will look to

build from that Miami game as they will go up against the Baylor Bears defense.

The Bears on the season are giving up 26.3 points per game. However, if you look at the statistics, those stats do not tell the whole story. As with the Wildcats, Baylor has faced only one team that is considered to be a good team. In that game, TCU exploded for 48 points and 466 yards of total offense.

The play of the offense last week should give the offense a lot of momentum as they look to continue their success against the Baylor Bears.

Baylor does not have the playmakers that the Hurricanes did on defense. If K-State plays the way that they did last Sat-

urday, the opportunity is there to have another successful day. The key will be the play of the offensive line. The line was terrific in the game against Miami, opening up holes for the running backs and giving Klein time to throw the ball to his receivers. The offensive line once again should be able to dominate the line of scrimmage. If the running game is able to run the ball, expect Klein to set a new career high in passing yards this week as well.

The offense will also be key in helping the defense out by keeping the Baylor on the sidelines. If K-State can win the time of possession, then the Wildcats will have a legitimate shot of pulling another upset.

BY THE NUMBERS

Key numbers to think of during Saturday's game

4
-Chances Miami had at the two yard line to win the game
After a controversial pass interference call gave the Hurricanes 1st-and-goal from the two, the Wildcats defense stepped up to gain the win. After a pass from Jacory Harris was dropped, the Hurricanes handed the ball off to Lamar Miller on the next two plays to no avail. That set up fourth down. Harris rolled out and looked to run it in, but Big 12 Defensive player of the week Tre Walker was there to stop him at the one yard line to clinch the victory for K-State

10
-Jersey number of Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin III
Robert Griffin III is the leader of one of the nation's most explosive offenses. The Bears are second in total yards and third in scoring with just over 51 points per game. Griffin is completing an incredible 85.4 percent of his passes on the season and has thrown more touchdowns than incompletions with 13 and 12 respectively. If the Wildcats are not able to get pressure on Griffin, he will be able to build on these statistics.

25
-Ranking of the K-State rushing offense
The Wildcats are averaging 219.7 yards per game on the season. This statistic was helped by the 265 yards that they put up against Miami. When the Wildcats play well on offense, the team is running the ball while sprinkling the passing game. Most teams use the run game to open up the passing game, but K-State does it the opposite way. If Klein is able to have success against Baylor passing the ball like he did against Miami, then the Wildcats should be able to have similar success on the ground.

60
-Percentage of third downs converted by K-State against Miami
One of the easiest ways to stop an explosive offense like Baylor's is to keep them off the field. A way to do this is by converting your third downs. The Wildcats were able to convert nine third downs which played a huge role in the game. In the second half, the defense gave up a couple of big plays and it appeared that Miami was starting to take over the game. With the Wildcats down three and facing a third and one from their own 29, K-state was in dire need of a first down. Collin Klein ran the option to the left side and pitched it to John Hubert, who took it 47 yards for a first down. K-State helped cap this drive off with the game-winning touchdown. If K-State is able to convert on third down against the Bears, it will allow the defense not to have to defend Griffin for as long.

140
-Receiving yards per game for Baylor top receiver Kendall Wright
Besides Griffin, Wright is the top playmaker on the Baylor offense. His 140 yards per game ranks fifth in the country among all receivers. Wright is a special receiver because he will do whatever you need him to. Not only does he have the potential to make big plays down the field, but he will also go over the middle and block if needed to. His ability to do everything on the field makes it hard for defenses to figure out how to stop him. Cornerbacks David Garrett and Nigel Malone will most likely be the two guys that are going to have the job of containing Wright.

683
-Yards of total offense that Baylor had against the Wildcats last season
In last year's 47-42 victory in Waco, Texas, Baylor set a school record with 683 yards of total offense. In that game, Griffin threw for 404 yards and running back Jay Finley rushed for 250 more. The Wildcats will have to perform much better this year if they are going to get the victory. The Bears are every bit as explosive as last year, if not more, so it will be a big challenge for the Wildcats to stop them.

-Compiled by Mark Kern

Defense must carry success from Miami into Saturday

Sean Frye
staff writer

Going into last week's game against the Miami Hurricanes, the Wildcats had the No. 1 ranked defense in terms of yards allowed per game in the country. However, having only faced Eastern Kentucky and Kent State, who have inferior offenses, many people doubted the legitimacy of the defensive unit, which finished last season ranked 106th in total defense.

With that in mind, the Wildcats went to Miami and made a statement by grabbing a 28-24 win that was punctuated by a goal-line stand in the last minute of the game to seal the victory. The Wildcats fell to sixth overall in the total defense standings, but the message sent was loud and clear to the entire country.

"Obviously, in the last four snaps of the ballgame, we played as well as we could have played," head coach Bill Snyder said. "I was really impressed with that. It was first and goal on the two-yard line, and we had 11 guys to the ball every snap ... the pursuit was great. Throughout the course of the ballgame, we were an improved defense. We still have our shortcomings, but they are not too difficult to define."

Now the Wildcats face their biggest task of the year thus far — to contain Heisman Trophy candidate Robert Griffin III and stop the No. 15 Baylor Bears in order to give the Wildcats a chance at a major upset.

Last year the Bears ran rampant over the Wildcats' defense, posting a team record of 683 total yards of offense and 47 points en route to a five-point win over K-State. This year's defense will be on a mission to avenge that performance.

"We think that we are a new team but you still have to look at the past and see what they did to us last year," defensive end Jordan Voelker said. "We have got to prepare a little bit better and put more on the game than we did last year. Just try to do everything we can to be ready this year."



K-State linebacker **Tre' Walker** (50) last week's Big 12 Defensive player of the week, attempts to make a tackle during the second half at Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Sept. 17th.

Defensively, the biggest problem for the Wildcats will be Griffin. A candidate for the Heisman Trophy, he has thrown for 13 touchdowns and only 12 incomplete passes. He has 932 yards passing and is also a threat on the ground with one rushing touchdown and great outside speech.

"Griffin is just an amazing

player. He's a single, major concern," Snyder said. "Who completes 85-90 percent of their passes in the game? We don't do that in pregame warm-ups ... he is for real."

Griffin's primary target is Kendall Wright, who has 420 yards catching on 31 receptions.

"They've expanded their of-

fense a lot this year," Snyder said. "They've got several excellent wide receivers out there. They can get the ball to some very talented young guys."

With such an excellent passing attack that the Bears bring to the table, the Wildcats' secondary will be called upon to make big stops. So far this year the Wildcats have come

up with an interception in all three of their wins against Eastern Kentucky, Kent State and Miami, including an interception that got returned for a touchdown by David Garrett against Kent State.

Coming up with big plays defensively will be crucial for the Wildcats if they want to have a shot against the Bears.

SCOUTING REPORT

ROBERT GRIFFIN
QUARTERBACK # 10

Robert Griffin III has emerged as one of the top quarterbacks in the country. Griffin on the season has thrown 13 touchdowns to go along with zero interceptions. Griffin's ability to make plays with his legs make him nearly impossible to stop.

KENDAL WRIGHT
WIDE RECEIVER # 1

Kendal Wright is the receiver that Griffin leans on the most to go get plays. Through three games, Wright has 31 catches for 420 yards. Wright has game-changing speed, so the Wildcats must tackle

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MIKE HICKS
SAFETY # 17

Mike Hicks leads the team with two interceptions. His first interception of the year clinched the upset of then ranked 14th Texas Christian University. Hicks will be looked upon to help slow down the Wildcats passing game as well as the rushing attack of the Wildcats.

0 = OFFENSE
X = DEFENSE

Baylor Bears need strong preformance from Griffin to win Saturday

Sean Frye
staff writer

This Saturday, the No. 15 Baylor Bears, who are 3-0 on the year, will storm into Manhattan with an undefeated record and an eye to give the Wildcats their first loss of the year.

They are coming off a 56-31 drubbing of the Rice Owls where Heisman Trophy candidate Robert Griffin III threw for five touchdowns and 338 yards. Griffin is undoubtedly the leader of the Bears, who are a high-powered offensive threat, but not much to write home about on defense, where they have allowed 79 points in just three games.

"Griffin is just an amazing player," K-State head coach Bill Snyder said. "He's a single, major concern."

So far this year, Griffin has put up some of the most impressive num-

bers in the country. The statistic that stands out the most is the fact that he has thrown for 13 touchdowns compared to just 12 incomplete passes. He has thrown for 962 yards and has yet to throw an interception. He is also averaging 7 yards-per-carry on 24 carries on the year, totaling 167 yards on the year.

"I can't think of anyone that presents the problems Robert does," Snyder said. "Who completes 90 percent of their passes? That's unheard of ... Robert might be the best quarterback in football, exclusive of what level."

The Bears are currently second in Football Bowl Subdivision schools with 594 yards per game and are third in the FBS in scoring with 51.3 points per game. In addition to Griffin's impressive statistics, wide receiver Kendall Wright has been a primary

offensive threat for the Bears. He has 420 yards receiving on 31 receptions, has four receiving touchdowns and has even completed two passes including one for a touchdown.

"They've expanded their offense a lot this year," Snyder said. "They've got several excellent wide receivers out there. They can get the ball to some very talented young guys."

Last year when the Bears hosted the Wildcats in Waco, Texas, they set a team record with 683 total yards on offense in a 47-42 victory. That, plus all the hype surrounding the firepower of the Bears' offense this year has the Wildcats' defense aching for redemption.

"That is a big motivation for us," said K-State defensive end Jordan Voelker. "We are just preparing for all aspects of the game this year."

The Wildcats' biggest opportunity to pull off an upset win over the Bears will be on the offensive side of the ball as the Bears' defense is their weak point. Rice, who is 1-2 on the year, put up 31 points on the Bears. The TCU Horned Frogs poured on 48 points with a new quarterback at the helm in the season opener despite losing the game.

Safety Mike Hicks leads the Bears in tackles with 20, meaning that many of the tackles are coming in the secondary level of the defense. That, in turn, means that the big play is open for the Wildcats.

So far, the Bears have only garnered four sacks on the year, with two of them coming against Stephen F. Austin in week two of the season and the other two coming against Rice.

With all that in mind, the Wildcats' offensive line will be a major deciding factor in the game when it

comes to whether K-State can pull off the upset.

"It is always a big game when it is a conference opponent," said K-State starting center BJ Finney. "I would like to think that we have come a long way. As far as improvement as a unit and execution, we have definitely improved but there are still improvements that we can make and we still have a long way to go."

The Bears are expected to go into a similar shootout-type of game this Saturday, the same type they experienced last year against K-State and the same type they had against TCU in their first game of the year. If the Wildcats can find the right game plan to contain Griffin and exploit the holes the Baylor defensive unit has, they will have a legitimate chance to pull off one of the biggest upsets in program history.

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Mark Kern
assistant sports editor

1. ROBERT GRIFFIN BAYLOR QB - 70 OF 82, 962 YARDS, 13 TOUCHDOWNS

With Andrew Luck on a bye week, Griffin had the opportunity to take over the Heisman lead and that is what he did. Griffin against the Rice Owls went 29-33 for 338 yards and five touchdowns, as well as 51 yards rushing and another touchdown on the ground. On the season, Griffin has more touchdowns than incompletions. Griffin will look to continue his unbelievable start as he gets set to take on the K-State Wildcats. The Wildcats have the sixth-ranked defense in the country and if Griffin is able to put up those type of numbers against the Wildcats, he may be able to pull away from the rest of the pack in the competition.

2. ANDREW LUCK STANFORD QB - 57 OF 85, 786 YARDS, 8 TOUCHDOWNS

Luck was off last week and that is the only reason why he dropped in the rankings. Luck is the most NFL ready player in the country and will look to get back in action as they play host to the UCLA Bruins. Last year, Stanford dominated the Bruins and shut them out 35-0. Luck only threw for 151 yards and two touchdowns. Expect those numbers to go way up as the Cardinal get into the heart of their schedule

3. LAMICHAEL JAMES OREGON — 65 RUSHES, 604 YARDS, 7 TOUCHDOWNS

James made sure he got back into the Heisman trophy conversation. After a rough first two games, James has bounced back with consecutive 200-yard rushing games, including a school record 288 yards against Arizona last Saturday. Those early season struggles are in the past as James is now second in the country in rushing, trailing only Denard Robinson of Michigan. James will have the week off as he gets ready to take on the California Bears on Oct. 6.

4. JUSTIN BLACKMON OKLAHOMA STATE — 38 RECEPTIONS, 450 YARDS, 4 TOUCHDOWNS

In the Cowboys biggest game of the season, Blackmon stepped up with 121 yards and a touchdown. He did have a potentially devastating blunder as he fumbled what appeared to be an easy touchdown out of the back of the end zone for a touchback. However, Blackmon is the go-to guy for quarterback Brandon Weden, who is a Heisman candidate himself. Blackmon like James will be off this week, but will be back in action on Oct. 8 against the Kansas Jayhawks. Expect Blackmon to pad his stats in that game as well.



ATHLETIC CALENDAR

Oct. 1- 7

Saturday
Football
vs. Baylor
2:30p.m. at Bill Snyder Family Stadium

Women's Volleyball
@ Texas A&M
6:30 pm

Women's Rowing
Head of the Oklahoma Tournament All Day

Sunday
Women's Tennis
at 36th Annual Milwaukee Classic in Milwaukee, Wis.

Monday-Tuesday
Men's Golf
Jim Colbert Intercollegiate
Women's Golf
Jonie Imes Invitational

Wednesday
Women's Volleyball
vs. Iowa State

Thursday
Women's Tennis
Riviera All-America
Pacific Palsades, California

Oct. 8-14

Saturday
Football
vs. Missouri
2:30p.m. at Bill Snyder Family Stadium

Women's Volleyball
@ Texas Tech
TBA

Monday-Tuesday
Men's Golf
Firestone Invitational
Akron, Ohio

Friday
Women's Equestrian
vs. Baylor

Saturday
Women's Volleyball
vs. Texas
7:00 pm

Football
@ Texas Tech
TBA

Sunday
Cross Country
Pre- National Invitational
Terre Haute, Ind.

Women's Golf
Susie Maxwell Classic
Norman, Okla.

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K-STATE VS. BAYLOR

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MATCHING UP

K-STATE RUSH OFFENSE VS. BAYLOR RUSH DEFENSE

The Wildcats were finally able to find a balanced running attack on Saturday as running back John Hubert finished with 166 yards and quarterback Collin Klein mounted up 93 yards of his own. This type of production will play a critical role against the Bears in more ways than one. Defensively, Baylor has shown obvious signs of vulnerability, and the Wildcats are strong enough running the ball to exploit that weakness. If K-State is able to control the clock and put together slow, methodical drives, they will not only be putting points on the board, they'll be keeping Baylor's offense off the field as well.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



BAYLOR PASS OFFENSE VS. K-STATE PASS DEFENSE

Robert Griffin III has been nothing short of phenomenal throwing the ball this season, with more touchdowns thrown than incompletions. Though Miami was able to expose the Wildcats secondary on a couple of plays, K-State's pass defense remains one of the strongest areas on the entire team. It will be crucial for K-State to keep tight coverage on wide receiver Kendall Wright, who has over 100 yards receiving in all three of Baylor's games thus far. However, Griffin has a variety of wide-outs to choose from, and he has proven that he can connect with all of them. If the Wildcat's defensive line is unable to apply enough pressure, things could get rough for the secondary.

ADVANTAGE: BAYLOR



BAYLOR RUSH OFFENSE VS. K-STATE RUSH DEFENSE

On the ground, Baylor is not all that impressive. Led by senior running back Terrance Ganaway, the Bears have found only a small amount of success running the ball. While quarterback Robert Griffin III presents another potential running threat, so far this season he has created most of his highlights through the air. K-State's defensive line has shown on multiple occasions so far this season that it can allow rushers to make it to the second level of the defense. However, after the last-minute goal line stand against the Hurricanes, the Wildcat's defensive line may have developed a new swagger. Expect K-State to attempt to minimize Baylor's success on the ground and force Griffin to throw the ball, which is probably in the Bear's game-plan anyway.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



K-STATE SPECIAL TEAMS VS. BAYLOR SPECIAL TEAMS

Special teams for both the Wildcats and Bears have been hit and miss so far this season. While Baylor has had opportunities to show off their kick and punt return teams, they haven't done anything spectacular so far this season. Neither team has looked spectacular on coverage, but the Wildcats have displayed a more impressive kicker in Anthony Cantele and can expect him to play a big role in the game by preventing the Bears from having as many return opportunities.

ADVANTAGE: NEITHER



K-STATE PASS OFFENSE VS. BAYLOR PASS DEFENSE

One of the most surprising improvements for the Wildcats so far this season came against Miami when Klein completed 12 of 18 passes for 133 yards. While the performance didn't break any records for the school, it did set a personal record for Klein, and will likely serve as a confidence booster for him. Baylor cornerback Chance Casey and safety Mike Hicks will apply tight coverage along with their team-leading tackling abilities. The Wildcats continue to make improvements each week, and as Klein becomes more comfortable, K-State can only get better throwing the ball.

ADVANTAGE: NEITHER



INTANGIBLES

Both teams will be bringing in perfect records and plenty of momentum, however, it will be Baylor's first road game of the season. K-State has already sold out its first two games against Eastern Kentucky and Kent State, and with the 15th ranked team in the nation coming into town after a huge win against Miami, expect Bill Snyder Family Stadium to be rocking from start to finish. Home-field advantage will definitely be a factor, but will it be enough to slow down Robert Griffin III?

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



FINAL SCORE PREDICTION: 35-31 K-STATE

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GAMEDAYGUIDE

A rising star Klein shows potential, Saturday will provide test

Sean Frye
staff writer

His arms were bloody, his jersey was filthy with dirt from the exposed infield of Sun Life Stadium, and he had taken numerous hits from the Hurricanes physical, athletic defense. Nevertheless, K-State starting quarterback Collin Klein produced one of the gutsiest performances in program history, delivering a 28-24 win over the Hurricanes last Saturday. Now his challenge is to go blow-to-blow with Heisman Trophy candidate Robert Griffin III when the Wildcats open Big 12 Conference play this Saturday against the Baylor Bears.

“He, like the vast majority of our football team, made some improvement,” K-State head coach Bill Snyder said. “What was evident to me ... was the degree of toughness. He really allowed everyone, his teammates as well, to understand that he has a high degree of mental and physical toughness that because of his nature and being a very pleasant, young person maybe doesn’t necessarily come across in dialogue he has with teammates. He underwent some conditions in

that ballgame that you’d have to be an awfully tough young man to endure, and he did.”

Klein was the driving force in the Wildcats’ victory over the Hurricanes. While the headlines read that it was the goal-line stand that sealed the victory, the Wildcats got there because of Klein’s 133 yards passing, three total touchdowns, his 93 yards rushing, and the zero turnovers he committed on the day.

“We were able to make some plays in the passing game,” Klein said. “The running game across the board was more consistent and we executed well individually and collectively. We made some plays and again in the big picture it is another positive step in the right direction. We have been able to make improvements in games up to this week and it is just something that we have got to continue to do and then good things will happen.”

Klein’s nature both on and off the field has been the topic of much conversation in the K-State football community. A mild-mannered college student, Klein rarely, if at all, uses coarse language on or off the field. Despite that, his energy on the field Saturday ignited a

flame under the entire Wildcats’ squad that had to be held back by Snyder towards the end of the game when the team wanted to run on the field to celebrate the goal-line stand.

“They love playing the game on Saturday,” Snyder said. “I think you have to have spirit and enthusiasm, I think that’s a major factor in being able to be productive. All the stuff that goes along with it is difficult, demanding, and hard. A victory makes everything that you go through during the course of the week worthwhile.”

This Saturday, though, will be a true testament to how Klein can handle Big 12 play, and his measure to beat will be one of the best quarterbacks in the country. Griffin plays with a style similar to Klein in that he runs the ball and passes the ball very well. Griffin currently has 13 touchdowns through the air, one mark higher than the number of incomplete passes he has thrown (12). Klein does have Griffin in the number of rushing touchdowns, as Klein has punched it in three times this year, compared to just one from Griffin.

“From a speed standpoint, (Klein) is in line with some of the guys here that have run the

ball well,” Snyder said.

Many would also argue that Klein had a more impactful performance against the Hurricanes last week than Griffin had against Rice. The Davey O’Brien Foundation awarded Klein an honorable mention for their Quarterback of the Week award, while Griffin shined against an under-matched Owls’ squad from Rice.

“We’re asking him to be who he can be,” Snyder said. “You have to do what you have to do ... we would like to have some balance and there’s some other things that have to get cleaned up in order for us to have the complete balance we’d like to have, but you try to play to your strengths.”

Klein’s performance will be under the spotlight that a nationally televised game brings to a team, as the game will be made available on ABC. Thus far this year, he has proved to be the staple of a quarterback that a program needs. If he makes K-State competitive against the No. 15-ranked team in the country, his name could begin to be brought up in conversations about who is the best quarterback in the Big 12 and potentially the country.



Jonathan Knight | Collegian

K-State quarterback **Collin Klein** runs downfield against Kent State at Bill Snyder Family Stadium, Sept. 17. The Wildcats defeated the Golden Eagles 37-0.

Handling Griffin is a whole new challenge for K-State defense



Baseball analysts are often criticized for using the most outrageous, pointless and impossible to follow statistics the human mind could ever fathom.

I’m sorry, Tim Kurkjian, but I can’t say anyone on Earth cares what Mariano Rivera’s ERA is during the 10th inning of day games with the Yankees ahead by two or more runs and cloudy skies overhead. Besides, what the heck does that even mean?

The keys to a useful statistic are that it’s informative, understandable and comparable.

With that in mind, let me throw something at you.

Robert Griffin III, quarterback of the Baylor Bears, has 13 touchdown passes and 12 incompletions through three games this season.

Think about that for a second. More touchdown passes than incompletions? And one of those games was against defending Rose Bowl Champion, TCU?

That is ridiculous in one of

those “You’ll never believe my whacked-out dream last night” kind of ways.

To put it in most basic terms, Griffin makes playing quarterback look like an easier job than operating a tollbooth in the sparse Montana wilderness.

He’s fast, he’s efficient, he’s incredibly smart with the ball in his hands and he’s the top listing on the K-State Defense Most Wanted list this Saturday.

The Wildcats are coming off one of their best defensive performances of Bill Snyder’s second tenure as coach. K-State made a gritty goal line stand on four straight plays to capture a huge non-conference victory.

But will the experience K-State gained last week transfer to an even better performance this week?

The fact of the matter is this: Baylor is better than Miami, perhaps for the first time in the history of college football. A decade ago, the thought of a home game against the Bears being tougher than a road game against the Hurricanes would be inconceivable.

But this week it’s the reality, and the Wildcats better be ready. Now is not the time for a letdown game. Not in a conference opener, against a ranked team, in front of a nationally televised audience.

As intimidating as a game in South Beach can be, KSU

should be more nervous for 2:30 tomorrow afternoon. Football teams that want to be seen as contenders win at home, period. And if K-State is going to make that a reality, it will have to slow down the man Snyder called the best quarterback in football at any level.

Move over Brady, step aside Vick. Robert Griffin wants to show the nation that Baylor is for real and turning the K-State defense into his puppet is part of the plan.

So how do the Wildcats stop him? Well, they can’t.

There’s no stopping an athlete like Griffin unless you knock him out of the game with an injury. He will do damage regardless of who he is up against. The way to beat him is to disrupt his rhythm, to slow him down and force the Baylor offense to play at an unfamiliar pace.

The Bears have scored in an average of 1 minute, 53 seconds on their 23 scoring drives this season. That’s fast.

In comparison, K-State’s 12 scoring drives in 2011 have an average possession time of 3 minutes, 44 seconds. That’s not as fast.

The defense must force Griffin and the Bears into slower play than they’re used to. Get Griffin out of his rhythm, and he might be prone to a few mistakes.

Offensively, KSU will be

using the same strategy Snyder has been perfecting for years. Long, slow drives that eat clock and allow less time for Baylor’s offense to pick apart defensive weaknesses.

Even if this plan works, it might not result in a victory. If you haven’t figured it out yet, I’m not optimistic.

But I do know that the Wildcats proved me wrong a week ago and are capable of doing it again. Arthur Brown, Tre Walker, Nigel Malone and company are a talented, intelligent group.

Will I pick a Wildcat victory? Not quite. But it wouldn’t shock me. And besides, I’m not right

100 percent of the time.

We will just call that another pointless statistic. But don’t overlook any of Griffin’s.

Tyler Dreiling is a freshman in journalism and mass communications. Please send your comments to opinion@spub.edu

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GAMEDAYGUIDE

Week 5 games to watch: Alabama and Florida to clash in The Swamp

Mark Kern
assistant sports editor



NEBRASKA
@ WISCONSIN

The Cornhuskers will get their first taste of game play as a member of the Big Ten in a tough environment. The Cornhuskers will travel to Camp Randall Stadium to take on the Wisconsin Badgers. Nebraska is undefeated on the season and is coming off a 38-14 win over Wyoming. Rex Burkhead rushed for 170 yards and two touchdowns in the victory. However, quarterback Taylor Martinez was held in check as he was only able to rush for 37 yards. Under NCAA rules, Wisconsin quarterback Russell Wilson was able to play immediately after transferring from North Carolina State. This put Wisconsin as a front-runner to win the Big Ten. As well as Wilson is playing, the Badgers have higher hopes than just Big Ten champions. Through four games, Wilson has thrown for 1,136 yards and 11 touchdowns on the season. Camp Randall will be rocking and the Cornhuskers must contain Wilson to have a chance for the victory.



ARKANSAS
@ TEXAS A&M

(Cowboy's Stadium, Arlington, Texas) – Both teams are coming off losses last week in their conference openers. Texas A&M's loss was excruciating as they had a 20-3 lead at halftime against Oklahoma State. Turnovers played a key role in the Aggies giving up the lead and eventually losing to the Cowboys 30-29. Arkansas on the other hand, faced Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The score was 10-7 Crimson Tide, when Razorback quarterback Tyler Wilson threw an interception for a touchdown that gave Alabama the momentum. Last week, the Aggies allowed Cowboys quarterback Brandon Weeden to throw for a career high 438 yards and two touchdowns. Arkansas' offense is also very explosive as receivers Joe Adams and Greg Childs form one of the best receiving duos in all of college football. They could have another big day if the Aggies do not improve on last week's game.

UPSET OF THE WEEK



WASHINGTON
@ UTAH

Washington is off to their best start since the 2005-2006 season, and a key reason to this start has been the play of quarterback Keith Price. In a 31-23 victory over California, Price threw for 292 yards and three touchdowns. Price, who took over for first round pick Jake Locker, leads the country with 14 touchdown passes. Utah comes into this game needing a win as they lost their conference opener to USC 23-14. The Utes will come into the game coming off a 54-10 victory over archrival Brigham Young University. The defense played a huge role as they forced seven turnovers, two of those for touchdowns. The Utes will need their defense to step up if they are going to have a chance of protecting their home turf. Washington is playing very well on offense and will give the Utes defense too many problems. Look for Huskies running back Chris Polk to have a big day running the ball and for Price to make enough big plays to allow the Huskies to pull the upset over the Utes in Utah.



ALABAMA
@ FLORIDA

The Crimson Tide head into The Swamp riding a wave of confidence after their 38-14 victory over Arkansas. Heisman Trophy candidate Trent Richardson had 211 total yards of offense and a touchdown. He will be leaned on heavily by Alabama to continue his success. Alabama quarterback AJ McCarron made his first conference start last week. However, that game was at home. The Swamp is a completely different environment, so the Crimson Tide must be able to run the ball. After having a down year last year, the Gators have seemed to right the ship. Coming off a 48-10 victory over Kentucky, Florida seems to be on a roll. Quarterback John Brantley has been able to avoid turnovers, which is what hurt him last year. As long as he can just manage the game, the Gators will be fine. Jeff Demps and Chris Rainey, two of the fastest players in the country, each went over 100 yards rushing against the Wildcats. With Demps and Rainey making plays out in the open field, the Gators are going to be tough to stop on offense, making the play by Richardson and McCarron even more important.



CLEMSON
@ VIRGINIA TECH

Coming off back to back big victories, it will be interesting to see if Clemson still has enough gas in the tank to leave Blacksburg with a victory. Freshman Sammy Watkins has been better than advertised for the Tigers. Last Saturday, Watkins erupted for 141 yards and two touchdowns. Watkins and quarterback Tajh Boyd have formed an explosive duo that will look to continue their success against the Hokies. Clemson has played both of their games against top 25 foes at home and this will be a much tougher challenge. Virginia Tech has not looked as good as they were expected to on offense, but their defense has been very stout. The defense, led by cornerback Jayron Hosley, will be determined to slow down the Clemson offense. Hosley led the country last year in interceptions and will be the primary guy to stop Watkins from continuing his hot streak. If Watkins and the Clemson offense is able to keep up its pace, the Hokies will have a hard time keeping up with the Tigers.

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